

CALIFORNIA'S CROP PRODUCTION REPORT

Released: March 31, 1999

These estimates of acreage to be planted for harvest are based on a survey of more than 2,000 California farmers, conducted the first two weeks of March. The impact of weather and/or market conditions since that time is not reflected in this report.

Cotton - California farmers were intending to plant 570,000 acres to *Upland cotton* in 1999, a 12% decrease from the acreage seeded in 1998. In addition, growers were expecting to seed 250,000 acres to *American Pima cotton* in 1999, up 25% from last year.

Corn - California farmers were expected to plant 6% less corn for all purposes this year; the total is expected to be 580,000 acres.

Oats - Farmers in California had planted or expected to plant 310,000 acres of oats, 3% less than last year.

Wheat - Acreage seeded to *Winter wheat* is estimated at 500,000 acres, unchanged from last year. Another 110,000 acres have been seeded to *Durum wheat*, down 39% from 1998.

Rice - California farmers intended to seed rice on 550,000 acres, a 15% increase from 1998 seeded acreage. The expressed intentions were to seed 505,000 acres to *medium grain* varieties, up 16% from a year ago. *Long grain* rice acreage is forecast at 5,000 acres, which is a 44% decrease from last season. *Short grain* rice planted acreage is forecast at 40,000 acres, up 11% from short grain plantings in 1998.

Barley - Farmers had planted or intended to plant 170,000 acres to barley, equal to the previous year.

Sugar Beets - California producers intended to plant 102,000 acres of sugar beets, unchanged from the seeded acreage in 1998.

Dry Edible Beans - Seeding of dry edible beans was planned for 130,000 acres in California, 18% more than the 110,000 acres seeded last year.

All Hay - As of March 1, California producers intended to harvest hay from 1.50 million acres, down 4% from last year.